

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten paragraph:

A stable optical element having a fine, uniform, and wide-ranging domain inversion structure in a ferroelectric crystal includes a plurality of domain inversions (101) formed on an MgO:LiNbO₃ substrate (100), and a groove (102) formed on the substrate surface between the domain inversions (101). The depth T' of substantially all of the domain inversions (101) satisfies the relation $T' < T$ with respect to the substrate thickness T .